

DRESS REFORM FOR SUPREME JUDGES

Delegates Discuss Vital Problem, But Overlook Important Points.

COLOR OF GOWNS NOT SUGGESTED

Texture Also Is Left to the Imagination—Julius Caesar and Others Held Up as Examples, and Shakespeare Is Quoted at Length.

BY LEWIS H. MACHEN.

The question of dress reform for the judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals was again a burning one at the Capital yesterday—more burning than on the day before, if possible. It came up in the lower branch of the House, by which the resolution was adopted Thursday, the House, by a vote of two to one, refusing to reconsider from its former action.

The debate was spirited, and the best of the session, so far, viewed from the viewpoint of oratory. But it may be truthfully said that there was more levity in it, at times, than was becoming in the discussion of so solemn a subject. To brief the argument pro and con, it was said that the English judges, the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States and of most of the States of the Union wear official robes; that the custom is antiquated, dignified, and worthy of the appearance of the judges, and that respect and reverence were accordingly inspired by this recollection. Julius Caesar and the Roman Senators were held up as examples of gown-wearing worthies and that the judges were not entirely dissimilar to them. To the contrary, it was said that the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States and of most of the States of the Union wear official robes; that the custom is antiquated, dignified, and worthy of the appearance of the judges, and that respect and reverence were accordingly inspired by this recollection. Julius Caesar and the Roman Senators were held up as examples of gown-wearing worthies and that the judges were not entirely dissimilar to them.

Some Other Aspects.

For contra, it was said that the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia already presented a sufficiently dignified appearance, and inspired all the respect and reverence that could be expected. That the Virginia Bar Association had not indorsed the change that the judges could adopt the proposed costume, if they desired to do so, and if they did not they could ignore the request implied in the resolution. Minor points were made, but these were the really vital ones.

The military aspects of the subject were not touched, except that some one hinted that the gowns were to be taken. Whether this was meant as a practical suggestion or merely as an oratorical flourish, it is not entirely clear. So far as the text of the resolution goes, one is not warranted in saying that bombazine is to be barred. Neither was the color question discussed in this connection, though the general assumption seemed to be that the gowns would be black, or at least of some sombre and impressive hue. In England the judges wear scarlet, and under the resolution Virginia judges might do the same, or even add stripes or bars of white and blue, to give them a thoroughly patriotic appearance.

If women had been discussing the question, as they discuss all questions in some Western Legislatures, they would not have omitted to decide the material, one that would wear and wash without running or fading, and the color, one that would be most likely to be becoming.

There was another disappointment—the failure to produce satisfactory proof that the judges themselves favored the proposed fashion. There were intimations that they did, but there was no authoritative statement.

What view the Senate will take of the whole matter cannot now be forecast.

Other Business.

A good deal of other business was accomplished by the House, which both in its committee and on the floor has got down to business with unprecedented promptness and vigor. The Senate, too, is not waiting for the winter to pass, but is making hay, rainy days and all.

The House under a suspension of the rules passed the bill reported from the Finance Committee making an appropriation of \$25,000 annually to the sinking fund for the purpose of extinguishing the public debt of the State. The amount heretofore annually appropriated for this purpose has been \$2,000. The increase is in line with the recommendations of the Governor's message, and is thought to further strengthen the credit of the State and add to the value of its securities.

A number of other bills were advanced on the calendar, and some will be passed.

In the Senate the joint resolution prohibiting the introduction of bills after February 20th was unanimously adopted. If it is adopted by the House it is thought that the chances of getting through most of the important bills already introduced will be greatly improved. Both houses seem to be bent upon preventing the legislative blockade which occurred last session, when for a long time scarcely anything could be considered without practically unanimous consent.

The Senate yesterday passed a number of bills relating to the question of where suits may be brought against telegraph and telephone companies for failure to deliver messages, and certain bills amending statutes relating to injunctions and prohibiting the unauthorized wearing of insignia of any society, trades union or the Southern cross of honor.

There is plenty of work now out to keep the two houses busy with the actual business of enacting laws, and it is expected that legislation will go forward without halt or slackening.

SESSION OF TWO HOUSES

Delegates Discuss Question of Gowns

for Supreme Court Judges.

Sitting for considerably over an hour yesterday, the House of Delegates transacted much business, none of which was of striking public interest. After a brief but spirited debate, the body refused to reconsider the vote by which, on the previous day, it

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WILL HAVE B. & O. TRAINS

Company to Extend Direct Service to Richmond in Short Time.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BALTIMORE, Md., January 17.—The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is arranging to put on through trains between this city and Richmond. It may be a month or two before it can be done, as the schedule of trains using the road between Washington and Richmond will have to be considered.

The completion and occupancy of the Union Station at Washington places the Baltimore and Ohio on an equal footing with the Pennsylvania in the fight for Southern traffic, and the fact is being hurriedly taken by physical conditions. The Baltimore and Ohio will use the tracks of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, in which it holds a one-sixth interest. The Baltimore and Ohio has made two attempts in the past to make proper connections for Southern passenger traffic. One plan was by way of the Metropolitan Southern, which started in Montgomery county, Md., and was to cross the Potomac and connect with the Southern Railway near Alexandria. Later it was planned to bridge the Potomac at Sheppard's and connect with the Orange and Alexandria road. This plan also was allowed to slumber.

Confirms Rumor Circulated Here.

This telegram confirms the very interesting report in circulation here yesterday that the company intended to extend its service to Richmond. A week ago this company established a through sleeper service between Richmond and Pittsburgh, being enabled to do this with the opening of the new passenger station at the national capital.

The Richmond-Washington company, the holding concern, owns a majority of the capital stock of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, distributed among six railroads, operating the through line in conjunction with the Washington-Southern from Washington to Quantico. The Baltimore and Ohio owns a one-sixth interest.

Council to Urge Repeal.

A meeting of the Common Council will be held next Tuesday night to adopt resolutions similar to those adopted by the House of Delegates and the Chamber of Commerce, urging the repeal of the law by which the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad has a monopoly between this city and Washington.

DIGGING GRAVES AT NIGHT

This Necessary to Facilitate Burying the Doctored Dead.

BOYERD, N. P., January 17.—The uncommon scene of Italian laborers digging graves by the light of the moon for the burial of the dead was witnessed in Clinton and Fairfax cemeteries here last night. So many funerals were to be held to-day, tomorrow and the day after, that the authorities found it necessary to have the men at work all night. To-day the men at work all night. To-day the men at work all night. To-day the men at work all night.

The authorities have thus far been unable to solve the mystery surrounding the unidentified body of a woman which was found dressed in mourning, and which was buried in the cemetery here last night. The unidentified dead will be buried in a coffin, sixty feet long, forty feet wide and six feet high. Each of the thirty unidentified bodies will be placed in a separate coffin and will be placed in a separate coffin and will be placed in a separate coffin.

KILLED ESCAPING FROM FIRE

Girls Enveloped by Flames, Jump to Their Deaths.

SCRANTON, Pa., January 17.—Four girls were killed, nine seriously injured and a score or more slightly injured, at a fire in the Imperial Knitting company in Scranton, Pa., to-day. The dead are Marie Buckley, aged thirteen, and Mary Griffith, aged fifteen, both of whom were killed by jumping from the third floor. The other girls were injured by jumping from the third floor. The other girls were injured by jumping from the third floor.

SAILORS SUE FOR ARREST

Five Negroes Bring Action Against Captain Harding for \$10,000.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., January 17.—Claiming that they were arrested contrary to the laws of the State, five negro sailors on the shipboard of the schooner "Palmer," of Boston, had Captain J. C. Harding arrested this afternoon and further entered five civil suits for damages of \$10,000 each. Captain Harding furnished surety in the sum of \$10,000, contending that he had a right to act as he did.

The sailors claim that they were illegally imprisoned at Newport News, just before the Palmer set sail for this port. They allege that the captain had no law for them, and that they were arrested of deserting sailors in the merchant marine. The captain claims that he acted under the authority of Commissioner Garrett, of Newport News. Great interest in the case is felt in marine circles.

Don't Want Another Court.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, Va., January 17.—The Norfolk Association of Merchants held to-night a meeting on record as opposing the bill introduced by Senator Sale to create another court for the city of Norfolk, declaring it to be the best interest of the city to increase the salary of Judge McLeome, of the City Circuit Court, and have additional judges of that court to facilitate business.

NO VERDICT IN WALSH CASE

Jury Still Unable to Agree, the Judge Goes to Indiana Home.

CHICAGO, January 17.—The Walsh jury not having arrived at a verdict as to the guilt or innocence of the former bank president, charged with having misused the funds of the Chicago National Bank, was sent by Judge Anderson to those waiting in the court room to report to him tomorrow morning.

Doubts are now expressed as to whether the twelve men will be able to reach a decision, various rumors as to the attitude of the jurors were circulated during the day, but were without foundation. The indication of any sort having come from the jury room. Walsh and his attorneys waited about the court room of Judge Anderson nearly all day. He appeared to be in high spirits and expressed the belief that he would be acquitted.

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CLOSE COURT WHILE EVELYN TELLS STORY

Thaw's Attorney Consents to Jerome's Request and the Judge Considers.

MOTHER AND WIFE BOTH ON STAND

Former Has to Suspend on Account of Exhaustion, and District Attorney Breaks Up Young Wife's Narrative With Searching Questions.

NEW YORK, January 17.—A series of surprises brought the Thaw case near a crisis to-day. Both Evelyn Thaw, the wife, and Mrs. William Thaw, the mother of the defendant, were on the witness stand, and just as the former was about to relate anew the story of her life, as she told it to Thaw in Paris in 1903, District Attorney Jerome arose and suggested that in the interest of public morals all persons save those immediately interested in the case should be excluded from the courtroom during the recital of what he termed a "horrible tale."

The motion included the representation of newsmen, as well as the public generally. Attorney Martin W. Littleton, of the defense, joined in it to shield the young woman from hundreds of curious eyes, and said that so far as the constitutional right to a public hearing was concerned, it was ready to waive that point in any ironclad manner the court might suggest. Proceedings were suspended until next Monday morning, when Justice Dowling will announce his decision.

Came As Big Surprise.

The district attorney's suggestion was a distinct surprise, and brought forth the remark from Justice Dowling that it would have come with greater force at the first hearing of the case. When Mr. Jerome arose it was generally believed that he was about to contest the admissibility of young Mrs. Thaw's testimony on the ground that it could not have had a very serious effect upon the mind of the man who subsequently became her husband, inasmuch as the latter did not occur until three years later. Mr. Jerome has previously objected to Mrs. Thaw's testimony on the ground that it was hearsay. Then Mr. Jerome attacked the witness in another way, and by standing immediately in front of her and objecting to her testimony, he was able to bring her to a halt. Mr. Littleton, asked in his preliminary examination as to her early history, cut the young woman's recital from the effective narrative form it assumed last year into a hundred fragments. Many of the objections, based upon their relevancy and materiality, were sustained by the court. When these failed the prosecutor was ever ready with others, until the testimony was fairly torn into shreds and had lost entirely the many little touches of human interest which were part of the narrative last year, when no objections were offered. Mr. Jerome said his objections were intended to cut out all stories about "pet cats and a lot of other stuff" which had no place in the trial.

Entangled Mother on Stand.

The elder Mrs. Thaw, pale and weak from her recent illness, was assisted to the witness stand by her attorney. A large part of the testimony she gave a year ago. Her appearance and the sincerity of her evidence, as she told of her son's strange conduct after meeting Evelyn Nesbit and hearing her story, had a marked effect upon all who listened. On account of her weak condition her examination was interrupted by consent, to be resumed some time next week, when she will tell of Thaw's infamy. District Attorney Jerome's manner, while the mother was on the stand, was all deference, and it was his suggestion which led to the respite.

Was Always Irrational.

Effective testimony was given at the morning session by Miss Alice C. Fletcher, of Washington, D. C., a long-time friend of the Thaw family and a frequent visitor at their home.

She said she had known Harry Thaw for twenty-six years and he had always impressed her as irrational. Miss Catherine O'Neill, who nursed Thaw away from his third to his tenth year, added her evidence to that already adduced as to irrational conduct and tendencies on the part of the defendant. Two doormen at the police station, where Thaw was confined the night of the trial, related a number of stories of last year of Thaw's irrationality.

(Continued on Third Page.)

NO ACCIDENT TO WARSHIP

Sensational Rumor of Sinking of Connecticut Without Foundation.

RIO JANEIRO, January 17.—The American fleet was anchored to-day in the harbor of Rio Janeiro by the torpedo boat Hattila, numbering six vessels, which arrived from Pernambuco and anchored near the point of big battleships at 3:45 in the afternoon. Lieutenant-Commander Cone reports the health of the men of the torpedo boat generally good. The vessels in his command will sail for Buenos Ayres after coaling, probably about January 22.

The scene in the harbor to-day was a most striking and picturesque one. Never before were so many warships anchored in this port at one time. Besides the great fleet of sixteen battleships, there was the fleet of Brazilian warships, the German cruiser Bremen and finally, late in the afternoon came the six American torpedo boat destroyers under Lieutenant-Commander Cone to swell the great fleet.

There was considerable surprise among the officers of the battleship fleet, as well as the people of Rio Janeiro, over numerous inquiries called here from the United States during the day, asking for information regarding the reported disaster to the battleship Connecticut, Admiral Evans's flagship. The rumor did not originate here, and at the time it was being telegraphed from the United States all the ships of the fleet were lying peacefully in the harbor in plain view from the city. Finally the rumor of the disaster to the battleship Connecticut, Admiral Evans's flagship, was widely circulated, occasioned considerable alarm there.

CUTTING DOWN EXPENSES

Southern Changes Divisions and Drops Employees.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
DURHAM, N. C., January 17.—In pursuance of the policy of the Southern Railway to reduce expenses the Durham division, which is one of the most important divisions of the system, has been reorganized. The division was established about thirteen months ago, and has since that time been under the management of Mr. J. M. Bennett, superintendent. The division was reorganized to-day, and the changes were made effective at once.

Attitude of Virginians.

The Virginia delegation is not primarily a majority. It is a minority, but it is a powerful one. It is a powerful one, but it is a minority. It is a powerful one, but it is a minority.

POPE ONLY HAS GOUT

Alarming Reports of Illness of Pontiff Exaggerated.

ROME, January 17.—Various alarming rumors were in circulation this afternoon regarding the health of the pope. The rumors were exaggerated. The pope is only suffering from gout. The rumors were exaggerated. The pope is only suffering from gout.

CONSPIRACY TO DEFAUD

Officials and Whiskey Men Being Arrested in South.

COLUMBIA, S. C., January 17.—John Black, a former director of the State dispensary, was arrested here to-day on a warrant issued by the State dispensary, charging conspiracy to defraud the State. Black was arrested in the sum of \$1,000.

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THEY GET THE LIMIT

Mayor of Bristol Puts the Screws to Victory of Prohibition Law.

BRISTOL, Va., January 17.—Dozens of saloons in Bristol, Va., since the abolition of saloons, Mayor Rice is giving offenders a limit. To-day he arrested a number of saloon keepers, and sentenced them to one year in jail. Patrick Ryan, a saloon keeper, was fined \$150 and sentenced to eighteen months in prison.

COAST LINE COMES TO TERMS

Reported to Have Accepted All Conditions of Government.

RALPH, N. C., January 17.—Statements here to-night are that the Atlantic Coast Line has finally consented to agree to a new contract with the Government. The contract is being negotiated by the Government, and the Atlantic Coast Line has finally consented to agree to a new contract with the Government.

COULD NAME ANOTHER RATHER THAN BRYAN

Power Rests With Opposing Congressmen to Secure Delegates.

MANY TO SUPPORT BUT RATHER NOT

Members of the Virginia Delegation and Others Classed as Bryan Men Fear He Cannot Win—Would Withdraw if Strongly Opposed.

Times-Dispatch Bureau.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—The sentiment of Democrats of the Senate and House, as gathered in the past week or two, indicates very clearly that if those who doubt the wisdom of nominating William Jennings Bryan were to throw aside the fear of hurting themselves with their constituents and go down into their districts when Congress adjourns and set themselves to the task of sending to the national convention delegates to elect Bryan, they could hold the balance of power at Denver. They could compel the nomination of Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, at least. Possibly they might compass the nomination of Judge George Gray, of Delaware, though this is somewhat to be doubted, since Judge Gray is far from the radical wing of the Democratic party.

It is a difficult matter to find Democrats who declare they are unequivocally for the nomination of Mr. Bryan, because they will not vote for him in the White House. The average member of Congress will go no further than to say he is for Bryan because his people are for Bryan, and because he believes Mr. Bryan can poll more votes than any other candidate.

FIENDISH ROBBERS

Steel Money of Nelson County Man. Then Try to Burn Him Alive.

AMHERST, Va., January 17.—News has just reached here of a robbery and attempted murder near Bryant, in Nelson county. The victim was Mr. Landon, a very successful farmer and stock raiser. Last Saturday night while Mr. Landon was asleep some one entered his house and searched his room, taking from him a safe containing \$11,000. Not satisfied with this, he fell upon the old man and choked him until he became unconscious. The robbers then fled, leaving Mr. Landon in a state of unconsciousness. The robbers then fled, leaving Mr. Landon in a state of unconsciousness.

PICTURE MACHINE EXPLODES

Fire in Berryville Theatre Causes Wild Panic, But Nobody Seriously Injured.

BERRYVILLE, Va., January 17.—Another page of horror came yesterday added to the long list of disasters in places of amusement here to-night. About 10:45, while a moving picture show was being given at the Berryville theatre, a machine exploded, setting fire to the draperies surrounding the machine, and in an instant all was ablaze. The fire spread rapidly, and the doors and windows, many carried out the window sash with them. Cooler heads prevailed, however, and no one was seriously injured. Very little damage was done to the building by fire, which was quickly extinguished by the brave efforts of those in charge of the machine.

SAVED HIS FRIEND

Boy's Presence of Mind Prevents Companion from Being Killed.

WINCHESTER, Va., January 17.—The presence of mind and quick action of Paul Clendenning, the little son of A. C. Clendenning, of Winchester, saved his friend from being killed. The boy was playing with a gun, and the gun exploded, setting fire to the draperies surrounding the machine, and in an instant all was ablaze.

MISS ROBINSON ARRESTED

American Woman, Witness in Druce Case, Arrested with Perjury.

LONDON, January 17.—Miss Mary Robinson, an American woman, the daughter of a Southern planter, who in the recent Druce case, testified that she knew Dr. Druce as the Duke of Portland; that Charles Dickens told her that Druce was the Duke of Portland, and that Druce himself afterward confirmed the statement, was arrested to-day on a warrant charging her with perjury.

KILL AND BURN HIM

Man Murdered and Body Thrown Into a Burning Shed.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., January 17.—J. O. Logan, aged sixty-eight, night watchman at the Wheeland Machine Works, was killed to-day by a blow on the head from some heavy instrument. The body was afterward placed in a small frame shed, which was then set on fire. When the fire broke out, the body was found in the flames. Logan leaves a widow and five children.

REVOLUTION IN HAITI.

Insurgents Take Two Paris and Government Forces to Blockade Them.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, January 17.—The government has declared the ports of Gonaives and St. Marc, which are held by insurgents, to be blockaded. Preparations are being made to bombard them. The American consular yacht Eagle arrived here to-day and her commander, Lieutenant-Commander Geo. B. Marvel, after an interview with the American Minister, Dr. Fauriol, proceeded to the Eagle to enforce the blockade.

DIED AT THE AGE OF 105

Fine Old Colored Woman Who Left an Offspring of Ninety-five Persons.

ETNA MILLS, Va., January 17.—Old Aunt Creasy Hill, colored, was buried at Mangochick yesterday. She was the last of her kind, and the mother of seven children, the grandmother of twenty-seven children, the great-grandmother of fifty-eight children and the great-great-grandmother of three children, making a total offspring of ninety-five, most all of them living. She was 105 years of age.

WANTED THE RUFFNER NORMAL

Manassas Sends Strong Committee Here to Work for the Project.

MANASSAS, Va., January 17.—The Manassas Business League held its annual meeting in the new Masonic Temple to-night. A committee was appointed to proceed at once to Richmond and to secure the establishment of the Ruffner Normal School for Girls. The committee consists of George C. Round, president of the league, and Messrs. Nicol, Judge J. B. Thornton, Hon. Thomas H. Lion and Colonel Edmund Berkeley. The last speaker was a Confederate veteran in the State, and he was instructed to buttonhole every lawmaker in Richmond in the interest of Manassas.

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THE PILOTS SURRENDER

Abolish Compulsory Piloting.

NORFOLK, Va., January 17.—The Virginia Pilot Association has given its assent to the passage of the bill now pending in the Legislature of Virginia, relieving the vessels and steamers regularly plying between Virginia ports and coastwise points, of a pilotage tax now imposed. This is looked upon as ending any fight against the measure, which was introduced by the passage at the present session of the two bodies.

The step was taken by the Pilot Association, it is announced, in the interest of Virginia shipping, although it is recognized that the pilots will suffer individually by the concession.

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